



Security Council

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S/25755
11 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached statement from my Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Haris Silajdzic, on the issue of United Nations relief personnel in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

May I ask for kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Foreign Minister

To remove final obstacle to lifting of arms embargo
Bosnian Government officially requests withdrawal of
United Nations relief personnel

Washington, D.C., May 9 - The Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dr. Haris Silajdzic, today announced the formal request of his Government that United Nations relief personnel either depart his country or be reconfigured to ensure their military defensibility. On behalf of his government, Silajdzic released the following statement:

"The presidency and government of Bosnia-Herzegovina hereby officially requests that the United Nations withdraw, as expeditiously as possible, all U.N. personnel deployed on our territory for purposes of delivering humanitarian relief. We do so because concern over the safety of those personnel now constitutes a significant obstacle to the defense of this sovereign nation.

"While deeply grateful for the valour of the many individuals who have served under the auspices of the United Nations on our territory, we find that the U.N. presence on the ground has become an impediment to critical decisions by the international community now urgently needed if our democratic, multi-ethnic republic is to be permitted the means to defend itself.

"It is our intention today, in requesting the withdrawal of relief personnel, to remove that final obstacle to the lifting of the arms embargo.

"Despite our best efforts, it remains insufficiently understood by international public opinion that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not a civil war, but a war of fascist aggression against a multi-ethnic democratic republic. Our government and our army remain multi-ethnic, and we remain committed to the goal of preserving the Bosnian republic as a multi-ethnic democracy with full guarantees of all human rights for all citizens.

"President Clinton understands our commitment and our desperate plight, and we have been encouraged by his efforts to achieve a lifting of the arms embargo so unfairly imposed upon our nation in its hour of need. We believe that the maintenance of the embargo, in the face of a continuing onslaught by fascist Serb forces, is not an act of conscience but of arrogant indifference to the fate of hundreds of thousands of loyal Bosnian citizens, who plead only for the right to defend themselves.

"We regret that world opinion has been beguiled by the image of us as a helpless people. To be sure, we are besieged by a relentless aggressor. But our forces have fought with courage and skill against overwhelming odds created inadvertently by the misguided policies of the United Nations. Our forces and our people remain ready to fight on in defense of their liberty and their principles. Only if they are permitted the means to do so will we attain, within our nation and our region, the balance of power that is the prerequisite to a negotiated settlement that will bring lasting peace and stability.

"Should the United Nations in its wisdom choose to reconfigure U.N. forces on our territory so that they can adequately defend themselves and so that their safety does not dominate international concern, we will welcome that decision. In the meantime, as the fate of our nation hangs in the balance, we beseech the Security Council to cease an arms embargo that has, in practice, constituted an international intervention against our legitimate rights as a Member of the United Nations. It is an intervention that not only undermines our own security but, by its unfairness and perverse result, compromises the principles and future of the United Nations itself."



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LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1993 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the statement of the President of the Security Council dated 29 January 1993 in connection with the Council's consideration of the situation in Georgia (S/25198). In that statement, the Security Council expressed its grave preoccupation regarding the further deterioration of the situation in Abkhazia and called on all parties immediately to cease the fighting and to observe and implement faithfully the terms of the Moscow agreement of 3 September 1992 (S/24523).

In its statement, the Security Council also shared my observation, as stated in my report on the situation in Abkhazia (S/25188), that the restoration of a viable peace process, based on the agreement of 3 September 1992, might require more active support by the international community. To this end, the Council endorsed my proposal to send a new mission to Georgia to review the situation in Abkhazia, assess the overall political situation and discuss and provide advice on practical matters such as the establishment and monitoring of an immediate cease-fire, the monitoring of the border in Abkhazia between Georgia and the Russian Federation, and the protection of the railway and communication links in Abkhazia. The Council stressed in this regard the need to ensure effective coordination between the activities of the United Nations and those of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

In view of the present situation in Abkhazia, which has further deteriorated since the adoption of the Presidential statement of 29 January 1993, I have come to the conclusion that the dispatch of another visiting mission, as I had originally envisaged, would not be an adequate approach in attempting to revive the peace process. I believe that a more concentrated effort is needed for the establishment of a lasting cease-fire and for the resumption of a process of political negotiation.

I have accordingly decided, after the necessary consultations, to appoint Ambassador Edouard Brunner (Switzerland) as my Special Envoy for Georgia. His tasks, based on the 3 September 1992 agreement, will be as follows:

- (a) To obtain agreement on a cease-fire;
- (b) To assist the parties in reviving the process of negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict;

(c) To enlist the support of neighbouring countries and others concerned in achieving the above objectives.

I have asked Ambassador Brunner to report to me on the results achieved after an initial period of three months, at which time I will make a decision on whether to extend his appointment.

Ambassador Brunner, who is planning to undertake his first mission to the region in the second half of the current month, will consult closely with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI



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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1993 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 5 May 1993 (S/25756) concerning Georgia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They are concerned at the situation in Georgia as reported in your letter and accordingly welcome your decision to appoint Ambassador Edouard Brunner as your Special Envoy for Georgia.

The members of the Council look forward to further reports on developments in Georgia on Ambassador Brunner's mission as it develops, and on any future recommendations you wish to make in the context of that mission.

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV
President of the Security Council
